

IMPORTANT FROM THE SOUTH.

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Seizure of a Station Near Charleston.

Desperate Battle and Defeat of the Rebels Near Port Royal Ferry.

Reported Heavy Loss of the Enemy.

Strength of the Rebels Near Port Royal.

MORE INCENDIARISM AT THE SOUTH.

LARGE FIRE AT RICHMOND.

ABANDONMENT OF BIG BETHEL.

The Rebel Army Becoming More Demoralized.

IMPORTANT MOVEMENTS IN THE GULF.

Occupation of Biloxi by the Union Forces.

Another Fight Between Fort Pickens and the Rebel Batteries.

Colonel Corcoran and Other Prisoners Transferred to Columbia, S. C.

IMPORTANT FROM SOUTH CAROLINA.

Desperate Battle Near Port Royal Ferry—The South Carolina Brigade Repulsed with Heavy Loss—Occupation of the Charleston and Savannah Railroad by Union Troops—Arrival of the Rebel Army at Charleston from Nassau, &c., &c.

Important news from the South is received in late Richmond papers, and by gentlemen from that city, who arrived at Baltimore yesterday.

Private despatches received at Augusta, Ga., from Fort Mifflin, S. C., dated January 1, state that the Unionists attempted to advance from Port Royal Ferry, but were repulsed by the Fourteenth regiment of South Carolina Volunteers, under command of Colonel Jones. The Confederate loss was fifteen killed and wounded. One Yankee was taken prisoner, but his fate is not otherwise given.

The following is a despatch to the Richmond Examiner—

VICTORY IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

CHARLESTON, S. C., Jan. 2, 1862.

Fighting on the coast commenced yesterday. Thirty-five hundred of the enemy landed on the main, near Port Royal Ferry. They were met by the bayonet by two regiments of our troops. The Yankees fell precipitately, throwing away their arms as they ran. They were driven into their boats. The howitzers on the boats opened fire on our troops, killing six and wounding twelve South Carolinians. The enemy's loss is about the same.

To-day the enemy landed in much larger force at the same place. General Gregg's brigade fell back a short distance to an eligible position. The pickets were skirmishing all day.

The enemy design an attack on the railroad and cannot avoid a battle.

The Richmond Examiner, under the head of "War Rumors," says:—

There were various reports during yesterday of incursions of the enemy in Western Virginia and of an advance movement of his forces in the direction of the Greenbrier Springs. The Western country has been left by the transfer of our forces from there, in a defenceless condition, and should the enemy be able to make any serious demonstration before the spring there will be but little to oppose him. The reports referred to above are, however, probably exaggerated, if not entirely sensational.

Later in the day another report obtained circulation that a battle had been fought in the neighborhood of Port Royal, S. C., and that the enemy, who were advancing inland, had been repulsed and a great victory had resulted to our arms. This report, although not authenticated by any despatches received at the War Department, obtained considerable credit last night, on the strength of private despatches, alleged to have been received in the city giving an account of the engagement. We are not disposed, however, to credit the report without further and more direct confirmation of it than yet received.

P. S.—Since the foregoing paragraph was written we have received a special despatch from our Charleston correspondent, fully confirming the report, to which we are happy to refer the reader.

REVIEW OF THE BATTLE AND DEFEAT OF THE REBELS.

Passengers from Richmond, who left that city on the 24 inst., state that news had been received there that Commodore Dupont landed thirty-five hundred troops on the main land near Port Royal ferry on New Year's Day. An engagement ensued in which the rebels repulsed the Union troops. On January 23 the attempt was renewed with better success, and General Gregg's South Carolina brigade was driven back with heavy loss.

The Charleston Mercury has a despatch stating that a large force of rebels had landed on the North Edisto, and seized railroad station No. 4 on the Charleston and Savannah Railroad.

General Lee has informed Jeff Davis that he is confident of his ability to prevent the rebels from advancing on Charleston or Savannah.

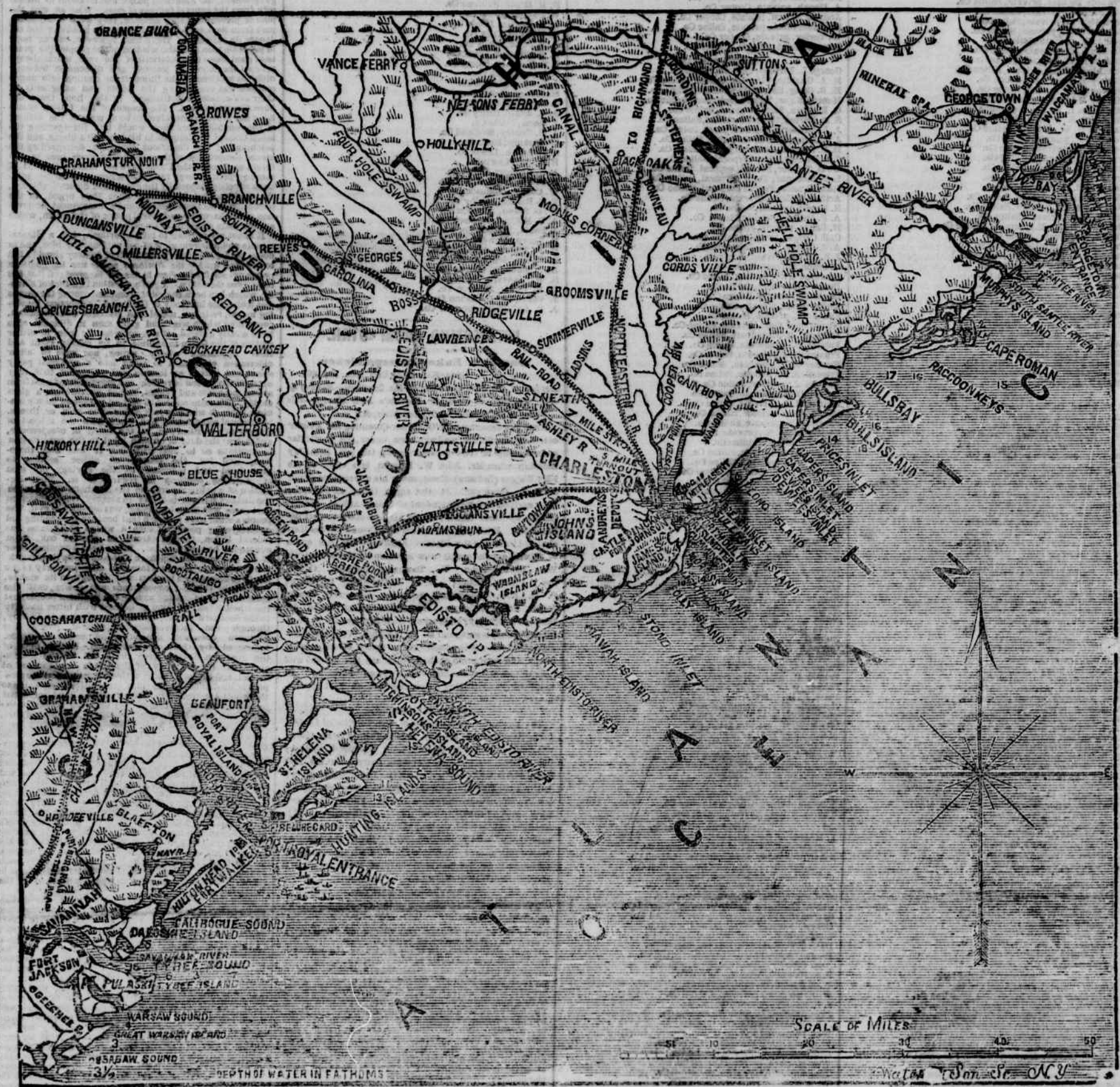
The following despatch is dated Charleston, January 2:—

The steamship Edis Warley, formerly the Isabel, from Nassau, ran the blockade and arrived at Charleston at daylight this morning. She was observed and ineffectually shelled by the blockaders. She brings a valuable assortment of cargo and passengers, including Mr. Bibb, formerly a delegate in the Virginia Legislature from the city of Norfolk. Mr. Bibb is a bearer of important despatches from Mr. Yancy, and has started for Richmond.

Colonel Corcoran and a number of other prisoners arrived safely at Columbia, S. C., on New Year's Day.

IMPORTANT MOVEMENTS NEAR CHARLESTON, S. C.

Operations of Our Naval and Military Forces from Port Royal--The Charleston and Savannah Railway Stations.



IMPORTANT NEWS FROM THE GULF.

Occupation of Biloxi by Union Troops—

Fight Between Fort Pickens and the

Rebel Batteries—A Large Fleet of Union

Vessels at Ship Island, &c., &c.

A despatch from Pensacola, dated January 1, says:—

Fort Pickens opened fire yesterday, but the fire was not

replied to-day. Our batteries are silent.

The Richmond Dispatch of the 31 inst. says:—

"The Confederate batteries replied to Fort Pickens, and

the firing continued all day. No vessels were engaged on

either side, and no casualties occurred with us. General

Bragg was absent while the commanding was going on, but

General Anderson was in command. General Bragg re-

turned on the 24 inst.; but the rebels did not renew

the attack, and our guns were silent."

A despatch dated Mobile, Jan. 1, states that a rebel

steamer going from Pensacola to the Navy Yard

was fired upon by the rebels from the batteries at

Fort Pickens. General Bragg's batteries replied, and

the firing was continued at the last account.

Sixteen war vessels are reported at Ship Island.

The Richmond Dispatch, of January 3, says that a private

despatch has been received here, dated Mobile, Janu-

ary 2, which states that General Butler is at Ship

Island; also that the rebels have nominal possession of

Biloxi, and it is believed that they will occupy all the

towns on the coast in that region. They captured two

cannon at Biloxi. It is stated that they landed there with

five to seven thousand troops, and it is further rumored

that they express a determination to push forward their

forces to Jackson.

IMPORTANT NEWS FROM RICHMOND.

Disastrous Conflagration—Burning of

the Theatre and Other Buildings—De-

molition of the Rebel Army—Ap-

prehended Attack of the Union Ar-

my—Our Forces in Possession of Big

Bethel, &c., &c.

It is reported that the rebel force at Big Bethel was at-

tacked and defeated by Union troops, and that Big Bethel

is now in our possession. It is certain, however, that both

Magruder, at Yorktown, and Huger, at Norfolk, have

been largely reinforced recently.

The Richmond Dispatch of the 31 inst. says:—

"A private despatch was received yesterday from Cen-

treville by a prominent military officer now in Richmond,

which says that indications point to an attack by the

federal forces at an early day on Evansport, and the

probability was that an attack would also be made by

them on other points on the Potomac."

A destructive fire had occurred at Richmond, burning

the theatre and other valuable property.

One of the returned Union prisoners has an editorial

article from a Richmond paper, which he cut out and

secreted in his boot. It gives an awful picture of the

condition of the rebel army on the Potomac, saying that

the entire army is utterly demoralized; regimental drill

has ceased entirely, the men spending their time in using

greasy decks of cards. Great numbers are deserting large

numbers for substitutes, and one had offered as high as

\$1,500. The editor urges the government to do something

to remedy the evil. Such is the demoralized condition

of the army that enthusiasm cannot go on, inasmuch

as who would not be deterred by the discouraging con-

dition of the army.

The prisoners say their clothing and boots were locked

upon with long eyes by the rebels, especially their

boots. Many were offered as high as twenty-five dollars

a pair for their boots.

Offices in Richmond at a dollar and a half a

pound.

The Seizure of the Charleston and Savannah Railroad by Union Troops.

The Charleston Mercury of a recent date publishes an

account of the movements of Union troops near Port

Royal. It states that a large force of federal troops had

landed on the North Edisto, and seized Railroad Station

No. 4, on the Charleston and Savannah Railroad. The

name of the station is not given, but we presume it is

Adams Run, Colleton district, twenty-three miles south of

Charleston. It is a village of 150 inhabitants, and con-

tains a church, schoolhouse, &c.

The despatch alluded to above gives a solution to the

destination of the army and naval expedition first

shadowed by the Herald correspondent on board the

United States gunboat Mercury, at Hilton Head, under

date of the 20th ult. He says:—"All is quiet throughout

the fleet, with the exception of the preparations attend-

ing the fitting out of the launches and first and second

cutters of the flagship Walcott, and four light draught

gunboats, together with a large number of troops, which

are destined for Bull's Island—probably Edisto Island, as

near as we can calculate. The expedition leaves here to-

morrow at an early hour. The greatest enthusiasm ex-

ists among all engaged in the affair."

The North Edisto river is navigable from Hilton Head

to Adams Run for vessels of light draft.

The seizure of Adams Run places the Union troops in

possession of an invaluable strategic position, as it ef-

fectually severs the railroad communication between

Charleston and Savannah. The water communication be-

tween Hilton Head and Adams Run is perfect, and prac-

tically for vessels of light draft.

General Lee, the rebel commander in the Port Royal dis-

trict, has informed Jeff Davis that he is confident in his

ability to prevent the rebels from advancing on Char-

leston and Savannah. The seizure of an important rail-

road station would seem not to establish the rebel gen-

eral's assertion. In addition to General Lee, the rebel sol-

diers are under the command of Generals Drayton, De Saussure,

Evans and Donelson. Their forces are no doubt superior to

the Union force. This fact should impress our govern-

ment to send reinforcements to General Sherman forth-

with. The following is a list giving the names of a por-

tion of the rebel force now in the vicinity of Port Royal,

Beaufort and adjacent islands:—

South Carolina First Artillery, Colonel W. De Saussure;

South Carolina Second Artillery, Colonel James L. Orr;

South Carolina Third Artillery, Colonel Bland;

South Carolina Fourth Artillery, Colonel Donovon;

South Carolina Fifth Artillery, Colonel Jones;

South Carolina Sixth Artillery, Colonel De Saussure;

South Carolina Seventh Artillery, Colonel B. H. Rutledge;

Mississippi Twenty-fourth regiment, Colonel Colbert;

Tennessee Eighth regiment, Colonel Stephens;

North Carolina regiment, Colonel Thos. L. Clingman;

Georgia Twenty-first regiment, Colonel Howell Cobb;

Georgia Twentieth regiment, Colonel H. Smith;

Beaufort (S. C.) Artillery, Captain Davis;

South Carolina battery, Captain Elliott;

Gorman Artillery, Company A, Captain

Gorman Artillery, Company B, Captain

Added to the above force is an entire brigade of Ten

negroes troops—four or five regiments—under Brigadier

General Andrew Jackson Johnson.

The last ten days I have learned some interest-

ing and valuable facts in regard to the recent move-

ments and changes of the Confederate army of the Potomac,

and the present position and strength of the different di-

visions of that army. From the same source, which I

may state are perfectly reliable, I have derived some

other facts (not mentioned below, because I am not at

liberty to mention them), which indicate pretty clearly

the line of action which Gen. Beauregard has marked out

for his winter operations.

According to this authority the Confederate army of the

Potomac, so far from being reduced in numbers, has been

largely augmented during the last six weeks, and now em-

braces fully 115,000 effective troops. The most of the

soldiers, several thousand in number, have been sent

down to Richmond. The remainder of the entire

army of the Potomac is now residing in General Tou-

ssaint's camp, near the city of Washington.

On the Potomac, the army is divided into three

divisions. The first division, under the command of

General Beauregard, is stationed at Centerville, on the

right bank of the river, about five miles from Washing-

ton. The second division, under the command of Gen-

eral Johnston, is stationed at the city of Washington.

The third division, under the command of General

Lee, is stationed at the city of Washington.

The army of the Potomac is now in a position to

repel any attack which may be made upon it.

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table degree of discipline and effectiveness to which the

army had been brought. One part of the review con-

sisted of artillery practice, both with the largest and

mounted on the works and with the field artillery. This

part of the review evinced the utmost degree of pro-

ficiency in the handling of the guns, the latter being

loaded, fired and placed in different positions with great

rapidity and exactness.

The extent and character of these works can be easily

imagined by those who have seen the numerous forts on

the right bank of the Potomac, opposite Washington.

Three of them—Fort Detting, Fort Davis and Fort Bel-

mont—were built by the late President, and are of the

most modern and strong. They all command roads that

must be taken in order to approach Centerville, and cannot

therefore, be avoided in an attack on that place. They

are all mounted with a complete armament of the

heaviest artillery, among which are a number of

rifled cannon. There are also six forts on the left bank

of the river, and one on the right bank, not far from Sudley's

Ford, near the Gun Spring road, and the one farthest to

the right being about half way between Fairfax station

and the Occoquan river, at a point about two miles be-

low Union Mills. Besides these nine forts there are many

smaller works, thrown up for batteries, each

mounted by a suitable armament. In addition to all the

above, there is a series of concealed batteries and rifle

posts, to all of which are assigned special detachments

of troops. The troops composing the main body of the

army expect to remain in their present position all win-

ter, and have, therefore, constructed an immense num-

ber of huts, in which they hope to winter the severity